



FLATHEAD

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901 | www.flatheadcd.org | 406-752-4220

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Pete Woll, Chair, called the May Business meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. in the district office. The meeting was conducted via Zoom, by phone, and in person following current guidelines and recommendations for social distancing.

Board members present: Pete Woll, Chair; Lori Curtis, Vice-Chair; Donna Pridmore, Secretary/Treasurer; John Ellis, Supervisor; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor; Ronald Buentemeier, Supervisor; Lech Naumovich, Supervisor, being a quorum of the Board.

Also, in attendance were Dean Sirucek, Associate Supervisor; Hailey Graf, Samantha Tappenbeck and Ginger Kauffman, FCD staff; Leo Rosenthal and Kenny Breidinger, FWP; Bill Whitsitt, Eagle Bend Homeowners Association; and Kimberly Robinson.

MINUTES

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

Hailey Graf reported that several college scholarship recipients have sent thank-you cards to the district.

FINANCIAL

Per restrictions and health concerns due to COVID-19, the Flathead CD was unable to hold meetings and conduct district business as usual, therefore, the bills listed below were paid on the following dates:

3/20/2020

1. Byte Savvy \$220.00
2. CenturyLink \$311.35
3. Flathead Beacon \$528.00
4. Grizzly Security ShredEx \$38.00
5. Montana State Treasurer \$294.00
6. Mountain States Leasing – Kalispell \$1,599.73
7. Signs Now \$1,950.43
8. VISA 3,292.01

4/1/2020

1. Byte Savvy \$115.00

2. Montana Conservation Corps \$3,125.00
3. Montana Sky Networks Inc. \$10.00

4/15/2020

1. CenturyLink \$310.24
2. Mountain Trader \$80.00
3. Susan D. Hulslander \$407.00
4. VISA \$408.14

4/29/2020

1. Flathead Beacon \$528.00
2. Green Earth Gardening \$1,160.00
3. MontanaSky Networks \$33.25
4. SWCDM \$35.00

5/13/2020

1. USGS \$1,780.00
2. Byte Savvy \$185.00
3. Flathead Beacon \$528.00
4. Laurence Magone \$1,141.86
5. Montana State Fund \$687.87
6. Mountain States Leasing \$1,599.73
7. Whitworth University \$2,000.00

The following bills were reviewed:

1. CenturyLink \$310.24
2. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University \$1,000.00
3. Macalester College \$2,000.00
4. Montana Sky Networks \$10.00
5. Stanford University \$2,000.00
6. VISA \$1,371.68
7. Montana State University \$2,000.00
8. Montana State University \$2,000.00
9. Montana State University \$1,000.00

Lori Curtis motioned “to approve Check Details for March, April and May 2020.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one was present to comment on items not listed on the agenda.

310's

Baer, FL2020019, Flathead River, dock: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 11:00 A.M. at the site.

Big Mountain River LLC, FL2020020, Whitefish River, dock/trail/pavilion/etc.: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Friday, June 5, 8:00 A.M. at the site.

Bradley, FL2019066C, Unnamed stream, complaint: Ronald Buentemeier stated that site needs to dry out and the water to go down before an onsite inspection is scheduled. Ronald Buentemeier made a motion “to table until the next meeting.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bradley, FL2019067C, Unnamed stream, complaint: Ronald Buentemeier stated that the site needs to dry out and the water to go down before an onsite inspection is scheduled. Ronald Buentemeier made a motion “to table until the next meeting.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Brown, FL2020016, Rose Creek, road/well, residential structure/fill: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 9:30 A.M. at the site.

Butts, FL2019056C, Unnamed stream, well/cistern: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Friday June 5, 10:00 A.M. at the site. Lech will contact Mr. Butts. Ronald Buentemeier noted that no discussion regarding water rights should be held during the onsite inspection.

Butts, FL2020002, Unnamed stream, well/cistern: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Friday June 5, 10:00 A.M. at the site. Lech will contact Mr. Butts. Ronald Buentemeier noted that no discussion regarding water rights should be held during the onsite inspection.

FNF/Big Mtn Winter Sports, FL2020009, Haskill Creek tributary motion review: Lori Curtis stated that this is a similar project to all other Winter Sports projects and that she wanted to correct the March 9, 2020, motion.

Lori Curtis motioned “to amend the 3/9/2020 motion and state that this is a project under the jurisdiction of Flathead CD.” Lech Naumovich seconded. Motion carried with one no vote.

Kenny Breidinger clarified that it is a 310 project and not a 124 as Big Mountain Winter Sports is paying for the design and implementing the project even though it is on Forest Service property. This is consistent with past 310-permits. Lori Curtis agreed that it follows precedent with other projects done on the mountain. Ronald Buentemeier stated we need to note the reason we are taking it as a 310-permit and not a 124-permit. John Ellis asked if the district has a letter from the Forest Service stating they want this to be handled as a 310 rather than a 124. Lori stated she will get a copy for the file and added that the site is still covered in snow.

Lori Curtis motioned “to table until the site is viewable.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Gregoroff, FL2020021, Swan River, remove logs from bottom of stream: Pete Woll explained that Jody Bakker has been diving, removing, and floating fully suspended logs to the surface to a removal area on Swan River for several years now. Leo Rosenthal

noted that an onsite inspection is not needed if the applicant is working in the same area as in the past. If the area is to be expanded, a map depicting additional collection sites must be submitted. The same language is to be used as in previous permits that they cannot disturb any logs embedded in the substrate or that are incorporated into some sort of a jam matrix so they do not destabilize any kind of jams, banks, or the bed. Pete reviewed considerations in the Team Member Report.

Pete Woll motioned “to approve the application with modifications listed in the Team Member Report. FWP waives the onsite inspection.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Lori Curtis motioned “to appoint Hailey Graf as a temporary signer on behalf of those not attending in person.” Lech Naumovich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Hogan, FL2019004, Rose Creek, application withdrawal: Pete Woll explained that Mr. Hogan submitted an email asking that this application be withdrawn.

Pete Woll motioned “to accept the letter to withdraw the application.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Linrude, FL2020010, Swan River, bank stabilization: Pete Woll stated the onsite inspection was held on 3/11/2020. The applicant wants to put rock along the river where it is washing away. The bank is keeping the river from moving toward the cabin. The applicant is in the process of getting all necessary permits and will do the work when the ground is frozen. Leo Rosenthal added that the bank is not very high, and the bank erosion is mostly from wave action rather than river process. The bank does not require a lot of rock or a big amount of excavation. It is a very minor project. Their proposal should help stop the erosion and seems like a good option.

Pete Woll motioned “to approve the application as submitted per the Team Member Report.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Lyford, FL2020007, Trumbull Creek, fill: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 9:00 A.M. at the site.

McCrorie, FL2020012, Flathead River, dock: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 1:00 P.M. at the site.

McIntyre, FL2020013E, Krause Creek, notice of emergency: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 10:00 A.M. at the site.

McIntyre, FL2020014, Krause Creek, debris removal: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 10:00 A.M. at the site.

Prairie Dog Dev., FL2020015, Unnamed Stream, road/wetland alt/fill: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 1:30 P.M. at the site.

Schnell, FL2020018, Trumbull Creek, bridge/dredging/fill/debris removal: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 10:15 A.M. at the site.

Skyline Metal Roofing, FL2020017, East Spring Creek, commercial structure: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2:30 P.M. at the site.

Smith, FL2020001C, Unnamed stream, complaint: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Friday, June 5, 11:30 A.M. at the site.

WestWood Park, FL2019033C, Bowser Spring Creek, complaint: A follow-up onsite inspection was scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 10:00 A.M. at the site.

NEW BUSINESS

Eagle Bend Wetland Area: Hailey Graf explained that the district recently received information and photos from Mitch King, MOLF, regarding additional and ongoing damage to MOLF property, however the district has not received a formal 310-complaint form. The board discussed the ongoing issues described by MOLF with Bill Whitsitt, board member for the Eagle Bend Homeowners Association (HOA). The district's complaint procedures were also discussed. Hailey suggested writing a letter to the appropriate landowners explaining the 310 Law and violations.

Lori Curtis motioned "to have Hailey Graf draft a letter. It is to be reviewed by legal counsel, signed by Pete Woll, and sent to the landowners." Lech Naumovich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

NRCS/FCD MOA: Hailey Graf explained that in February the 2020 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Natural Resources & Conservation Service (NRCS) and Flathead CD was presented for renewal. The Board reviewed the MOA and Pete Woll was added as the contact person. The MOA now needs to be signed and sent back to NRCS.

Lori Curtis motioned "to have Pete Woll sign the NRCS/Flathead CD Memorandum of Agreement." John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Phone Polls: Hailey Graf explained that per restrictions and health concerns due to COVID-19, the Flathead CD was unable to hold meetings and conduct district business as usual, therefore, the following phone polls were held:

3/16/2020

- **Haskill Basin Watershed Council Appointment:** The Haskill Basin Watershed Council requested Flathead CD appoint John Phelps, Paul McKenzie, and Bill Cabbage as members to the council for a term of three years; beginning 1/1/2020 and ending 12/31/2022.
Approved by Lech Naumovich, Lori Curtis, Verdell Jackson, John Ellis

3/23/2020

- **DNRC Gr. #23G-19-3639 Vendor Invoice:** Hailey Graf requested approval to submit a Vendor Invoice to DNRC for Grant #23G-19-3630 FCD Demonstration Garden & Outdoor Education Center in the amount of \$2,244.43.
Approved by Lori Curtis, Lech Naumovich, Donna Pridmore, John Ellis, Verdell Jackson

- **3/20/2020 Check Detail:**

The 3/20/2020 Check detail included transfer of funds and the following bills:

1. Byte Savvy \$220.00
2. CenturyLink \$311.35
3. Flathead Beacon \$528.00
4. Grizzly Security ShredEx \$38.00
5. Montana State Treasurer \$294.00
6. Mountain States Leasing – Kalispell \$1,599.73
7. Signs Now \$1,950.43
8. VISA \$3,292.00

Approved by Lori Curtis, Lech Naumovich, Donna Pridmore, John Ellis, Verdell Jackson

- **3/9/2020 310-Stream Permit Meeting Minutes**

Approved by Lori Curtis, Lech Naumovich, Donna Pridmore, John Ellis, Verdell Jackson

3/31/2020

- **310 application #FL2019004, Rose Creek, Hogan**

Pete Woll requested copies of the LOMA documents submitted by Mr. Hogan be forwarded to Roger Noble for review.

Approved by Pete Woll, Lori Curtis, Donna Pridmore, Ronald Buentemeier, Verdell Jackson, John Ellis, Lech Naumovich

4/22/2020

- **310 application #FL2020004, First Creek, Winter Sports**

Lech Naumovich requested approval of the application with modifications for a culvert extension. Kenny Breidinger, FWP, concurred.

Approved by Lech Naumovich, Lori Curtis, John Ellis, Donna Pridmore, Verdell Jackson, Pete Woll, Ronald Buentemeier

- **Vehicle RFP**

Hailey Graf requested approval to send an RFP to local dealerships regarding the purchase of a pickup truck and the trade-in of the SUV.

Approved by Lech Naumovich, Lori Curtis, John Ellis, Donna Pridmore, Verdell Jackson, Pete Woll, Ronald Buentemeier

- **Dyer's Woad Project**

Hailey Graf requested the CD continue participation in the Dyer's Woad Project for 2020.

Approved by Lech Naumovich, Lori Curtis, John Ellis, Donna Pridmore, Verdell Jackson, Pete Woll, Ronald Buentemeier

- **Flathead Basin Commission Appointee**

Hailey Graf requested that the board appoint Lech Naumovich as primary representative for the Flathead Basin Commission.

Approved by Lori Curtis, John Ellis, Donna Pridmore, Verdell Jackson, Pete Woll, Ronald Buentemeier, (Lech Naumovich recused himself)

- **College Scholarships**

Samantha Tappenbeck requested the board approve the College Scholarship awards as presented.

Approved by Lech Naumovich, Lori Curtis, John Ellis, Donna Pridmore, Verdell Jackson, Pete Woll, Ronald Buentemeier

- **Watershed Support Program**

Samantha Tappenbeck requested approval for Geum Environmental Consulting to conduct an assessment of potential projects and priorities in the Ashley Creek priority area in the amount of \$6,000.

Approved by Lech Naumovich, Lori Curtis, Donna Pridmore, Verdell Jackson, Pete Woll, Ronald Buentemeier (John Ellis voted against)

- **GIS Audit**

Ginger Kauffman requested the completed GIS audit be approved.

Approved by Lech Naumovich, Lori Curtis, John Ellis, Donna Pridmore, Verdell Jackson, Pete Woll, Ronald Buentemeier

4/27/2020

- **USGS Stream Gage Funding Agreement**

Hailey Graf requested approval for the annual payment, in the amount of \$1,780, towards FCD's share of the costs associated with operating the stream gage.

Approved by Lori Curtis, Lech Naumovich, John Ellis, Pete Woll

5/8/2020

- **FL2020011, Briggs Creek, Grob**

Lech Naumovich and Kenny Breidinger did an onsite inspection, and Lech requested approval of the application with modifications per the Team Member Report. The 15-day waiting period was waived. Kenny Breidinger, FWP concurred.

Approved by Lech Naumovich, Pete Woll, Lori Curtis, Ronald Buentemeier, Donna Pridmore, John Ellis, Verdell Jackson

5/11/2020

- **95 Karrow LLC, FL2019017, Whitefish River**

John Ellis requested approval of a one-year permit extension until 5/28/2021. Kenny Breidinger, FWP concurred.

Approved by John Ellis, Lech Naumovich, Verdell Jackson, Lori Curtis, Donna Pridmore, Ronald Buentemeier, Pete Woll

John Ellis motioned "to approve the phone polls as listed from 3/16/2020 to 5/11/2020." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: Pete Woll closed the meeting for Board discussion. Pete Woll re-opened the meeting. John Ellis made a motion "to extend an offer of employment to Uwe Schaffer." Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Vehicle Purchase: Hailey Graf explained Requests for Proposals (RFP) for a pickup and trade-in of the current vehicle were sent to local dealerships, however, only two responses were received. Discussion held regarding submitted proposals and sending out a second RFP.

Ronald Buentemeier motioned “to send out another RFP due by June 15th.” Lech Naumovich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

This will be added to the next business meeting agenda.

SWCDM Mini-Grant Amendment – Flathead Rain Garden Initiative: Hailey Graf explained that the Flathead Rain Garden Initiative is a project between Flathead CD and the City of Kalispell. Education programs related to the grant were not able to be held this spring due to COVID-19, so a grant extension and budget amendment were requested. Both DEQ and SWCDM approved the changes. Hailey asked that the Board approve and sign the updated contract.

Ronald Buentemeier motioned “to approve the SWCDM grant extension and budget amendment.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Conservation Grant Program: Samantha Tappenbeck explained that 11 applications were received. Requested funding totaled \$33,240.51, and the timeline was adjusted to fit with the district fiscal year. Applications were reviewed and recommendations were provided to the Board for review regarding the overall program budget and individual contract funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020/2021.

Lori Curtis motioned “to approve the recommendations for the Conservation Grant Program as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion held and concerns were raised regarding applications for landscaping. Lech Naumovich requested funding for application #07 be reduced to only cover the cost of seeding, and Samantha noted that Flathead CD’s 75% portion would be \$810.

Lech Naumovich motioned “to amend the initial motion to address application #07 and reduce to \$810 from \$1,455.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Additional discussion held regarding the importance of funding being provided to landowners that may not otherwise be able to conduct projects and to consider updating language in the application pending review by legal counsel. Samantha added that ranking criteria could also be updated.

End of Month Reports (February - April): John Ellis motioned “to approve the End of Month Reports for February, March and April as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Flathead CD Staff: Hailey Graf, Samantha Tappenbeck, Ginger Kauffman, and Mikaela Richardson provided the following report:

Office and Administration

310 – Ginger processed seven 310-Permit Applications in May. Ginger emailed public meeting notices for May and June to Daily Interlake. Ginger and Hailey coordinated with landowners to cover essential work during the COVID-19 pandemic and to safely arrange for onsite inspections.

Bookkeeping – Ginger processed payroll on May 13th and May 27th and processed the May state and federal taxes.

Ginger worked with Donna Pridmore to reconcile bank statements for February, March, and April. Ginger also compiled End of Month Budget Reports for February, March, and April.

The Flathead County Finance office sent FY21 preliminary budget sheets, and Ginger has begun work on the 2020/2021 budget sheets.

District Office – Hailey coordinated with NRCS and DNRC on office protocols to ensure employee and public safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Workplan – With input from the Local Working Group, Hailey began updating the FCD Long-Range Plan and the annual workplan. The Long-Range Plan will address resource concerns and establish priorities and the annual workplan will establish specific goals and strategies to meet resource concerns.

Trainings – Hailey and Samantha completed the Supervisor Jumpstart Training virtually through FVCC. Mikaela virtually attended the Big Sky Watershed Corp technical skills training. Ginger completed the QuickBooks on-line training.

Vehicle Purchase – Hailey and Ginger prepared a Request for Proposal for the purchase of a new vehicle and disseminated it to local dealerships. In response, we received two proposals.

On-the-Ground Projects

Cow Creek Restoration Project – Mikaela and Hailey worked to update the vegetation community monitoring plan and prep for field work. A field day for maintenance is tentatively planned for May 28 or early June, stream levels permitting. Work will include weeding, maintenance on tree protector tubes, and fence repair. Social Distancing practices will be maintained during the field day.

Trumbull Creek Restoration and Aquifer Protection Project – Hailey and the review committee began the negotiations process for contracting a qualified engineer. This process has been delayed slightly due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions but is ongoing.

Krause Creek – This project was approved during the recent legislative session for funding through the DRNC Renewable Resources Grant program; however, funding has not been released for it yet.

Demonstration Garden – Staff hosted a planting day on April 24. Lech and family, and AmeriCorps volunteers joined staff to plant a hedgerow, add plants to the rain garden,

seed a cover crop, weed planted areas, and conduct general maintenance. Staff have continued maintenance such as weed spraying and mowing throughout May.

Programs

Conservation Grant Program – The application period for FY20-21 Conservation Grants closed on April 30th. Ten applications (11 received, 1 withdrawn) are being considered for funding and include reforestation, native seeding, wildlife habitat improvement, riparian buffer improvement, bank stabilization, rain gardens, and windbreak practices. The total request for funding is \$33,240.51, the largest since FCD began offering the program. Samantha conducted site visits and provided technical assistance to landowners to finalize applications. Samantha compiled and reviewed applications and distributed to the Board for review. Decisions on individual awards and FY20-21 program funding will be made at the May Business meeting. Staff will work with landowners to put contracts in place to begin July 1.

Seedling Program – This program is currently closed and will open for orders on September 1.

Education Grant Program – FCD funded one contract in FY19-20, and two contract extensions from FY18-19. Final reports are due June 1. A new application was received in March from Columbia Falls High School, but this application will be considered in FY20-21 due to covid-19 related school closures and recent FCD meeting cancellations. Staff continue to provide information and resources to educators interested in this program.

College Scholarship Program – Nine applications were awarded to Flathead County high school seniors in 2020. To date, four students have submitted thank-you notes and indicated their interest in attending a future meeting.

Watershed Support Program – Mikaela completed a GIS map of the Ashley Creek watershed with reference landowner database. FCD contracted with Geum Environmental Consulting to complete phase one of an assessment of upper-middle Ashley Creek to determine potential restoration projects, sites, and feasibility. Staff met weekly with Geum to collaborate and direct progress according to program needs and goals. The phase one assessment will be completed by June 1.

Pollinator Initiative – 20 landowners have submitted interest forms and seed has been distributed to 10 of these landowners for planting this spring. Staff worked with landowners to provide information on site preparation and planting guidelines. Site visits will be scheduled this summer and fall to monitor progress and discuss maintenance of plots.

Rain Garden Initiative – Mikaela and project partners are continuing to coordinate with landowners for rain garden construction. Funding was provided to the Center for Sustainability and Entrepreneurship for the purchase of plants for the on-site bioswale/rain garden. Mikaela has also been designing education and outreach materials, and information and guidelines for design.

Education and Outreach

Workshops and Events – Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all spring workshops and events, including Family Forestry Expo, Earth Day, Arbor Day, and Rolling Rivers Trailer presentations, have been canceled or postponed. It is our hope that these valuable events can be rescheduled for fall. To help make up for these cancellations, staff are working to create virtual lessons focusing on the same topics. Mikaela created three educational videos demonstrating various watershed and nonpoint source pollution concepts using FCD's Enviroscape Model. These videos are available on FCD's YouTube channel, and will be added to the website and distributed to our partners in education.

Advertisements – We ran advertisements in the Flathead Beacon:

- • Prevent erosion by maintaining vegetation along waterways (May 13)
- • Clean, Drain, Dry to prevent the introduction of AIS to local waterways (May 27)

Website and Social Media – Over the past month, the website was viewed 2,661 times (up 36% from last month), and the most viewed pages and posts were the home page, a blog post about local fishing ponds, and the schedule of upcoming workshops. Over the same period, posts on the Facebook page reached 625 users and had 286 post engagements and 7 new followers. The most viewed posts included information about the cancellation of Family Forestry Expo that included virtual resources about riparian areas, progress in the Demonstration Garden, and the Enviroscape educational videos.

eNewsletter – The Local Dirt was distributed on 5/4/2020 and included upcoming events, available programs, blog posts, a partner profile, and 310 permitting information. The current mailing list includes 242 people. The May issue was opened by 100 people (262 times) and had 35 total clicks. The top three clicked links were the Free the Seeds event, FCD Workshops and Classes, and a blog post about soil testing. The top three clicked links were information about native grass seed mixes, FCD workshops and classes, and a blog post about plant selection for rain gardens.

Upcoming Events – Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, staff scheduled workshops and outreach events at the Demonstration Garden starting on June 17. Staff are preparing to present these workshops or host virtual workshops as necessary based on the current outbreak status.

Partnerships

- Mikaela attended the Flathead CORE meeting and presented information on FCD programs and events. Hailey provided technical support to the group and assisted with website updates.
- Hailey and Dean Sirucek virtually attended the Flathead Basin Commission Onsite Wastewater Treatment Committee meeting on May 19. Partners discussed issues with septic leachate and solutions for solving the identified problems. Partners also presented newly created maps depicting areas of risk based on geology, hydrology, and several other variables.
- Mikaela coordinated with Lone Pine State Park and AmeriCorps for volunteer days. Several AmeriCorps members participated in a workday at the Demonstration Garden and Mikaela participated in a *trail's cleanup day* at Lone Pine State Park.

Natural Resources & Conservation Service (NRCS): Sean Johnson provided the following report:

➤ **Programs**

- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
 - Ashley Lake Targeted Implementation Plan (TIP) was approved
 - 38 total landowners contacted through phone calls about interest
 - NRCS handling larger properties and smaller lake home type properties being handed over to Deb Starling for her Haz. Fuels Grant Program
 - Flathead Valley Irrigation TIP submitted for initial review for 2021 funding
 - Working on Joint Chief's proposal between NRCS/USFS to request funding for West Valley area
 - NRCS would receive additional funds, essentially a TIP, for private lands work and USFS would receive additional funds for vegetative work along with road improvements, fish barriers, etc. on national forest
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
 - Announced sign-up deadline of June 12th
 - Gaining more interest in the Flathead County

➤ **Review Items**

- All previously scheduled events/meetings cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic

➤ **Upcoming Items**

- NRCS COVID-19 response teleconference coming up on Friday, May 29th
 - Should start to lay out the process in which we will start the phased process of reopening offices
- EQIP contracting still moving forwards
- Attending annual North Fork Firewise day to promote EQIP. North Fork Firewise committee met on May 24th and were going to have discussions about priority watersheds to focus a new TIP on, potentially for 2022 consideration

➤ **Miscellaneous**

- Sean working in office 3 days a week and Karli 2 days a week. Roger is teleworking full time in response to COVID-19

➤ **Water Supply Outlook Report**

- Maps on following page for May 1st
 - Flathead Basin – 117% of historical average
 - Sub-basins range from 90%-136%

Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD): Pete Woll reported that MACD received three applications for the CEO position, and the spring MACD Board meeting venue will be moved due to COVID-19.

Flathead County Planning Board (FCPB): Dean Sirucek reported that due to COVID-19 the April meeting was cancelled. The May 13th meeting included a zone change in Evergreen, a commercial subdivision in Bigfork, a request for a 2-lot subdivision, and a zoning amendment for a privately owned property going over the summit. All went forward with positive recommendations to the County Commissioners. A 15-acre 6-residential lot in Whitefish on Carrol Avenue was tabled until the next meeting. The meeting also included the county plan. The 1984 growth policy for Columbia Falls, and the 1986 Kalispell City County Master Plan agreement were dropped as they need to be updated.

Whitefish City Planning Board (WCPB): John Ellis explained that the May meeting was cancelled as the one agenda item was withdrawn.

Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC3): Lori Curtis reported that she presented to the Environmental Council today. The legislative committee made 5 major recommendations to DNRC and FWP, which are under review. A meeting will be held June 10th via ZOOM.

Haskill Basin Watershed Council (HBWC): Hailey Graf reported the HBWC meeting was cancelled.

Flathead Basin Commission (FBC): Lech Naumovich stated that the next meeting will be held July 8 via ZOOM. Hailey Graf reported she and Dean Sirucek virtually attended the Onsite Wastewater Treatment sub-committee meeting. She noted that Dean has been helping to map areas of septic leachate risk in Flathead Valley based on variables such as hydrology, geology, soils etc. Dean will meet with DEQ next week to review and update the initial draft. Dean added that additional grant funds are available for Lake County to do the same, but he will not be part of that process.

Clark Fork & Kootenai River Basins Council (CFKRBC): No meeting.

MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF

Annual Budget Overview: Hailey Graf explained that she has been using comments and feedback from the last Local Working Group meeting regarding main resource concerns to update the Long-Range Plan (LRP). The LRP will include priorities and how the district can fill in where the farm bill and federal funding leaves off, to make sure landowners needing assistance are not left out. Based on those priorities, the Annual Work Plan (AWP) will indicate strategies for addressing the resource concerns and guide budget planning for the district. She noted that staff will begin preliminary budget discussions and asked supervisors to contact her with any questions or suggestions. Hailey will also work on finding a meeting location where supervisors can either attend the budget meeting in person or virtually.

Office Update: Hailey Graf explained that the building doors remain locked and the public must call the office if an appointment is necessary. This is mainly to protect staff.

This policy will continue for the unknown foreseeable future, as this is a shared building, and the district is coordinating with NRCS and Farm Service Agency (FSA). Pete Woll added that he talked directly to Tom Watson, and since the district pays our own rent, if necessary, we can open our doors.

Hailey added that under the Governor's phase 2 of opening Montana, part of the direction to employers is to continue encouraging employees to telework from home when possible. Staff is still available during normal scheduled hours, and either working from home or in the office. The office is staffed 8-4:30 PM every day, and if more than one staff person is in the office, measures of distancing, etc. are taken. Pete Woll added that per federal and state direction, any administrative leave pertaining to COVID-19 is documented on the timesheets.

The next 310-Stream Permit meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2020, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

Adjournment: Lori Curtis motioned "to adjourn." John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Submitted By:

Ginger Kauffman
Administrator

Hailey Graf
Resource Conservationist

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

<u>6/22/2020</u>	<u>Pete Woll</u>	<u>Chair</u>
(Date)	(Signature)	(Title – Chair etc.)